

# OXBOW ECO-CENTER

## CALENDAR January 2013 THROUGH March 2013

5400 N.E. St. James Drive, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983  
(772) 785-5833; [www.oxboweco.com](http://www.oxboweco.com); [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org)

Center hours are Tuesday through Friday from 12-5pm, Saturday from 10am-5pm.  
Trails are open daily from dawn until dusk.

***Visit the center for some free fun activities and check out our cool exhibits.***

### January – Ice Age Florida Month

**Guided Hikes** – Every Saturday at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

**Tai Chi for Health Classes** – Fridays at 10:30am & Saturdays at 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **\$10 per class or \$35 for 4 classes, RSVP, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org)**. Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health, designed for everyone, including those who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues. Appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must.

**“The Big Year with Sandy Komito”** – January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). If you’ve watched the movie *The Big Year*, you’ll want to join the St. Lucie Audubon Society for a lecture by one of the subjects of the movie – Sandy Komito. Based on the book by the same name, three birders were competing in 1998 to break the record, already held by Komito, of finding the greatest number of birds in a single year. Komito kept the record, in fact increasing it by another 17 birds. He still holds the record, now at 847 species. The lecture is FREE.

**“Florida Fossils – Show and Tell” Lecture** — January 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). FREE Brown Bag Lecture, no RSVP. Put your hands on a piece of ancient Florida history with Fred Mazza, of Paleo Discoveries, as he shares rare and unusual fossils he has found through years of fossil hunting across the Florida and southeast United States. Bring your lunch and a friend to share in this hands-on FREE lecture!

**Homeschool Farm Day**—January 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am -12:30pm at the 4-H ZEP Farm in Fort Pierce, **RSVP-\$3/ child**, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Kindergarten through 4th grade students will be learning about where their food comes from, different forms of gardening, how the water cycle plays a key role for life and will have an exciting hands-on with some of the Farm’s animals. 5th through 12th grade students will be learning about the natural history and physiological systems of the animals. Space is limited so RSVP a must!

**Swamp Tales** — January 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

**Nature for Families “Megafauna”**— January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **RSVP-\$4/ participant**, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Imagine a world where going outside to collect food meant walking past huge animals like mammoths and giant sloths; a world where you would have

been prey for large predators like the Terror Bird, Megalodon and the Sabre-Tooth Cat. Join us as we learn about the giant animals that once called Florida home and their modern relatives living here today. Appropriate for children ages 5 and up.

**“Save a Tree, Save the Planet” Lecture**— January 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Matthew Stover continues his series on simplifying life through mastering simple technology tools. While we all want to reduce our paper consumption, it still seems like we are printing out copious amounts, and recycling reams of paper. But recycling is not the cure-all. Paper needs to be a certain quality to be recycled, and can't be recycled too many times before losing its usefulness. So significantly reducing the amount of paper we use is even more responsible than recycling. Learn some ideas on how to go paperless with confidence. This is a FREE lecture and open to all.

**Oxbow and the Natives “Tools for Ancient Survival”**— January 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Jim Stewart from Savannas Preserve State Park will be discussing the weapons, ornaments, and other tools created and used by Florida's Native Peoples. Following the presentation watch as the Oxbow animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite foods. This is a free program for children ages 5 and up.

**Treehouse Time “Moving like Ice Age Beasts”**— January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Youngsters and parents will warm-up with our naturalist by moving like their favorite ice age animal. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

**Art Class “Metal Embossing”**— January 19<sup>th</sup>; Adult session 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30 pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **RSVP- \$20/ participant**, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). The Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present this stunning art class. Throughout history embossed metal art has been highly prized and during this presentation participants will create a modern twist on metalizing bookmarks, journals and cards.

**Native Bee Roosts Workshop** — January 26<sup>th</sup> at 12pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **\$10/ participant**, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). In Florida there are roughly 315 species of native bees and our existence depends on their presence here. With the recent decline in the non-native honeybee colonies, we can all help to encourage native bees to stay in our gardens by making a variety of roosts. Join Master Beekeeper and President of the Treasure Coast Beekeepers Association Michelle Peterson as she discusses the value of having native bees visit your landscape, demonstrates how to make a variety of roosts, and helps you make one for your garden. Cost includes all supplies. Appropriate for ages 12 and up. RSVP.

## **February – Saving the Endangered Month**

**“Save The Endangered” Poster Contest** —All month— Children are asked to create a “Save The Endangered” poster where they can draw a species of their choice and write how people can save this endangered plant or animal. Posters will be displayed throughout the month and there will be prizes at the end of the month for the most original poster. Contest for children ages 5-8. Please stop by the center poster details.

**Guided Hikes** — Every Saturday at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

**Tai Chi for Health Classes** — Fridays at 10:30am & Saturdays at 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **\$10 per class or \$35 for 4 classes, RSVP, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org)**. Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health, designed for everyone, including those

who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues. Appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must.

**“Imperiled Florida Grasshopper Sparrow” Lecture** — February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12:00pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Considered by some scientists as the most critically endangered animal in North America, the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow might become extinct within the next 3 to 10 years. Biologist Paul Miller from the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park will be discussing the natural history, conservation, threats and the future of this imperiled avian species at Oxbow’s FREE lunchtime lecture.

**Home School Day at the Oxbow “Birds 101”** – February 7<sup>th</sup>; Grades K-4<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm; Grades 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30pm; at the Oxbow Eco-Center; \$3/participant, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Our feathers friends have some very unique adaptations and behaviors. Students will immerse themselves in the world of birds from their amazing anatomy, their ecological niches, and their strategies for survival. Students will also learn how to use binoculars to spot birds and look for their distinguishing field marks. RSVP a must!

**Nature for Families “Florida’s Endangered Species”**— February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **RSVP- \$4/ participant**, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). In Florida there are only about 100 panthers left in the wild, the Gopher Frog who calls gopher tortoise borrows home is vanishing, and our bromeliads cannot deal with the alien invasions. Participants will be discovering the hardships of many of Florida endangered species and what they can do to help save these plants and animals. Appropriate for ages 5 and up. RSVP a must.

**Swamp Tales** — February 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

**Treehouse Time “Threatened Species Sing-a-long”**— February 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Youngsters and parents will sing songs and act like their favorite threatened species like the manatee. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

**Art Class “Endangered Zentangles”**—February 16<sup>th</sup>; Adult session (ages 16 & up) 10 am –12 pm, Kids session (ages 8 –15) 1:30pm– 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **RSVP-\$20/participant**, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). The Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present this stunning art class. This program explores the art of Zentangling, which is a form of drawing often described as “doodling with patterns.” Use nature’s own designs to get inspired! RSVP.

**Oxbow and the Natives “Gopher Frog”**— February 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Hop on over to the Oxbow to learn how a slimy frog lives in a sandy burrow. Gopher frogs are a very rare sight but if you listen closely at night you can hear their “snoring” song. Following the presentation watch as the Oxbow animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite foods. This is a free program for ages 5 and up.

## **March 2013 –Becoming a Naturalist Month**

**Guided Hikes** – Every Saturday at 9am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Enjoy a guided hike through the wilds of the Oxbow and be enriched with the biodiversity this preserve has to offer. No RSVP required just show up at 9 am ready to hike!

**Tai Chi for Health Classes** – Fridays at 10:30am & Saturdays at 3:30pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **RSVP-\$10 per class or \$35 for 4 classes**, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Tai Chi instructors Hilde and Hector Ruiz-Puyana will lead classes in Tai Chi for Health, designed for everyone, including those who suffer from arthritis, diabetes, osteoporosis, and balance issues. Appropriate for ages 16 and up. RSVP a must.

**Brown Bag Lecture “Florida’s Early Female Naturalist” Lecture Hike**— March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Author and Pulitzer-Prize winner Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings led an extraordinary life in the remote wilds of Florida. Rawlings’ writings and great observations of the world around her help us to better understand Florida’s past. Join the Oxbow to learn how she managed her day to day struggles in the hamlet of Cross Creek Florida. No RSVP required for this FREE lunchtime lecture.

**Home School Day at the Oxbow “Archaeology of Prehistoric Florida”** – March 7<sup>th</sup>; Grades K-4<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm; Grades 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30pm; at the Oxbow Eco-Center; **RSVP-\$3/participant**, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Kevin the Archaeologist will be visiting the Oxbow for a very special homeschool presentation. Students will get to explore Florida’s rich past and try their hands at some of the tools used on an archaeological dig. Students should attend prepared to get sandy. **RSVP a must!**

**Nature for Families “Eco Explorers”**—March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **RSVP-\$4 per participant**, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Learn about ecology and have a blast! Eco-Explorers is about having fun while learning about energy and wildlife. We will be playing games on the trail, so bring a water bottle and a hat. Dress appropriately. Appropriate ages 5 and up; \$4 per participant. RSVP a must.

**Swamp Tales**— March 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Join us for a “novel” adventure with Miss Kitty, our fabulous storyteller. Each month the story changes but the fun never stops! This free story and activity program is appropriate for ages 3 to 6.

**Treehouse Time “I Spy Nature”** – March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Youngsters and adults will explore the wilds of Oxbow using their peepers. This is a free program appropriate for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

**“Pine Needle Baskets” Art Class** --March 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Oxbow Eco-Center, **RSVP-\$20/participant** (includes all supplies), 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Treasure Coast Art Association teams up with Oxbow to present this fun, nature-inspired art class using left-over pine needles to create beautiful baskets. Appropriate for ages 8 and up. RSVP a must!

**Oxbow and the Natives “Biofacts”**— March 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:45pm at the Oxbow Eco-Center, FREE, 772-785-5833 or [oxbow@stlucieco.org](mailto:oxbow@stlucieco.org). Animals may be hard to find when you are hiking during the day, but if you look carefully you can always find “Biofacts” or evidence of their presence. Learn and touch some biofacts found in the Oxbow woods. Following the program watch as the Oxbow animal ambassadors enjoy their favorite foods. This is a free program ages 5 and up.